

AETC News Clips



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20 Sep 01

Wake-up call on U.S. air defense

Terrorism puts spotlight on National Guard

By SIG CHRISTENSON
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Two F-16s — wings full of fuel and armed with air-to-air missiles — roll down a runway outside Houston.

This sight of fighters, until now relatively sporadic, is about to become far more common for Texans.

Twenty-eight pilots with the Texas Air National Guard's 147th Fighter Wing are charged with protecting Houston and the Gulf Coast, a job that might strike many as light duty — until terrorists struck the United States last week.

"You have to remember we're on 24-hour alert 365 days a year here, a couple of aircraft, loaded," said the 147th's commander, Col. Robert J. Spermo. "So our guys are used to launching, looking for someone."

Many Texans probably hadn't heard of the wing until it became the focus of media reports after last Tuesday's bombings.

It has quietly helped augment drug interdiction efforts and kept intruders away from the Gulf Coast for a decade, covering a sprawling area that runs from New Orleans to Alamogordo, N.M.

The wing provided cover for Air Force One in the hours after the terrorist attacks, escorting the plane as it crisscrossed the heartland.

It was a scene right out of the Harrison Ford movie "Air Force One," and it certainly was not a

routine mission for the wing, which flies 18 F-16s out of Ellington Field about 35 minutes south of downtown Houston.

The wing, where Bush was stationed as a National Guard fighter pilot during the early 1970s, has the duty of providing homeland defense.

A number of U.S. fighters have been on alert since Tuesday's attacks. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told ABC's "This Week" on Sunday that pilots at 26 bases across the country are now on "strip alert," meaning they can take off in 10 to 15 minutes.

In some areas, including Washington, the planes are in the air, he said, while elsewhere they are on the ground, ready to scramble.

It wasn't clear how long the pilots had been on strip alert status. A small number of bases have been on alert status for years, but the number was expanded dramatically after the attacks, and involve Air Force reserve and guard components, said Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, the Pentagon's top spokesman.

The stakes are high for Houston — the nation's fourth-largest city. After the destruction in New York City and Washington, guarding against terrorism in the city of 3.2 million is a main concern.

Houston boasts a revitalized downtown with 78 buildings, including the 71-story Chase Tower and the Houston Astros' new 42,000-seat retractable-roof baseball park, Enron Field. Only a few miles south is the world's largest medical center, and 10 minutes away is the Astrodome.

The nation's second-largest port, where 7,093 oceangoing ships visited in 1998, is only another 10 or so minutes east. Then there's oil. Long after the boom went bust, half of the nation's petrochemical

products and 25 percent of its gasoline is produced at refineries within a 175-mile radius of Houston.

"When you talk about terrorism, it's something that scares the hell out of us," Harris County Emergency Management Coordinator Jim White said, noting there are more than 120 major refineries along one stretch of the ship channel.

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, a San Antonio Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, said terrorists have shown they aren't necessarily going after traditional targets, such as military bases.

"They're not playing by the rules we've always had," he said. "They can hit our schools, they can hit our hospitals. Basically what they want to show is that they can get to us, and that they can instill fear."

San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza said the city is on guard after last week's attacks.

"I think anybody's vulnerable," he said, adding that last week's events convinced him that San Antonio-area leaders are "prepared to respond both in support of other communities or respond here in our own back yard."

If terrorists strike Houston, the 5th U.S. Army at Fort Sam Houston would play a pivotal role in helping the city recover. As the lead agency, it would set up a command center, determine if chemical or biological weapons were used and work with the FBI and other federal agencies.

But Mayor Lee P. Brown stresses that Houstonians shouldn't let terrorists strike fear in the community.

"I'm telling our citizens to go about their business," he said. "One of the goals of the terrorists,

in addition to the target of the attack, is to paralyze the populace even away from the target by creating fear and chaos."

But it's too much, some defense leaders said, to ask a single National Guard fighter wing such as the 147th to protect a coastline chock-full of industrial areas, entertainment venues and residential communities.

"What you need to do is to have in place a variety of capabilities, a very robust intelligence capability that gives you your best shot at having knowledge of what's about to happen," Pentagon spokesman Quigley said.

During the early 1960s, nearly 2,000 air defense fighters patrolled the nation's borders and interior, said Gen. Ronald Fogleman, a former Air Force chief of staff. After the Cold War, the job of defending the homeland fell to aging National Guard fighters, he said, leaving the United States with little more than "two handfuls" of air defense sites along the nation's perimeters.

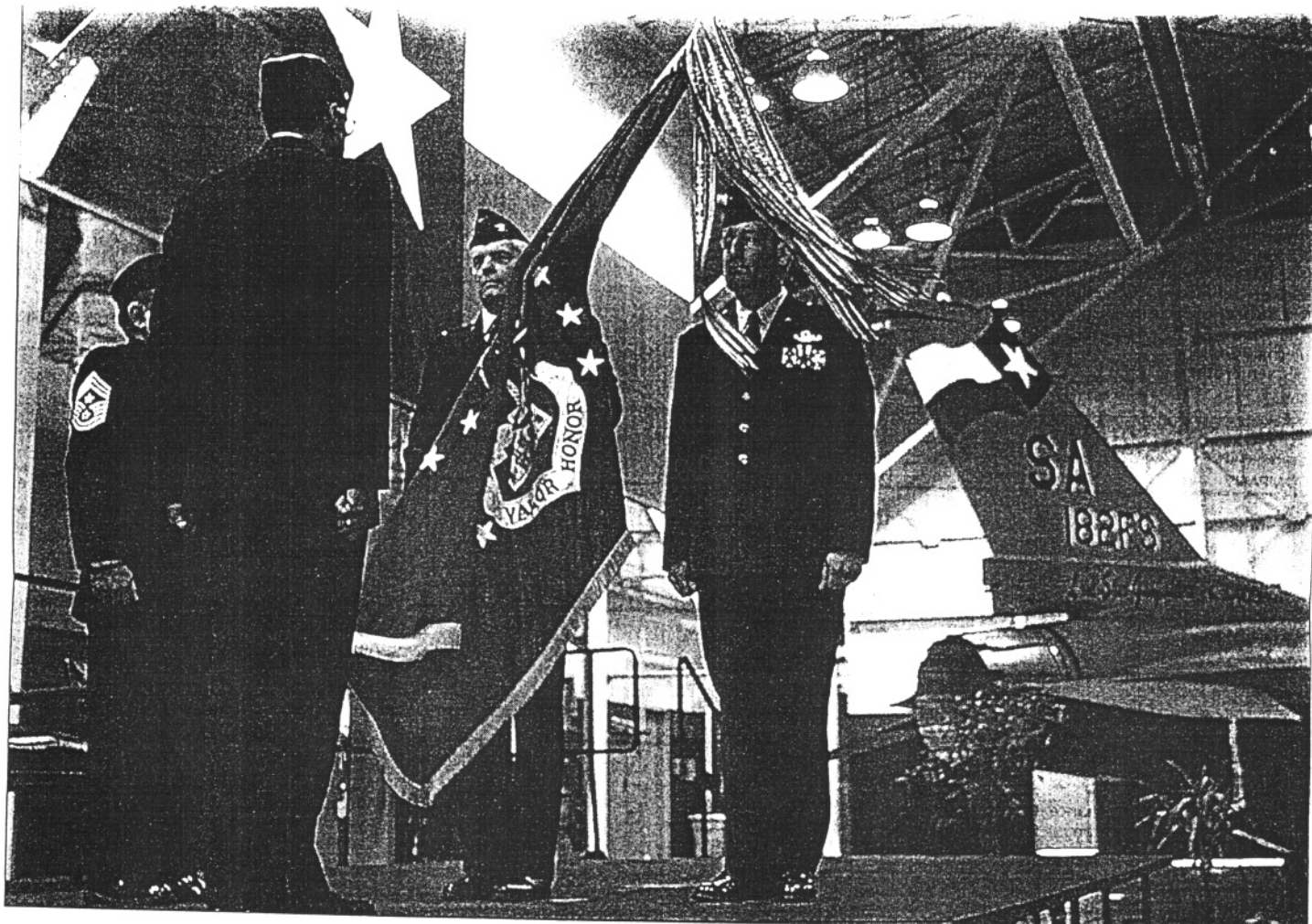
"The fact of the matter is we don't have a lot of air defense sites because there hasn't been a real threat, and so we had a commensurate level of air defense," Fogleman said.

There might have been even fewer F-16s on patrol the day of the attacks had Congress and some in the Pentagon won a battle to scrap the older C-model F-16 fighters and funnel the leftover proceeds into weapons modernization, said the Texas National Guard's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Daniel James III.

"That has obviously been shaken by the fact that we needed fighter escort for Air Force One," he observed.

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Texas Air National Guard Col. Robert J. Spermo (center) passes the 149th Fighter Wing flag to Adjutant Gen. Daniel James III (left), com-

mander of the Texas Air National Guard as a gesture of the changing of command to Col. Henry Morrow (right) in early 2000 at Kelly AFB.

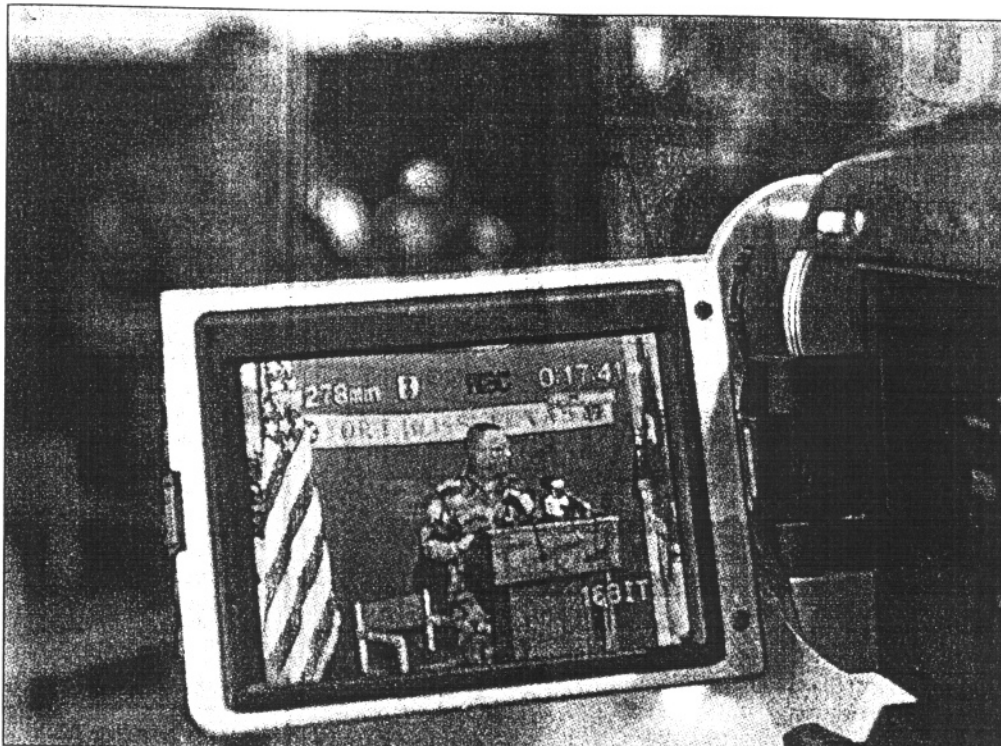
KIN MAN HUI/STAFF

Wake-up call on U.S. air defense

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BOBBIE DEHERRERA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maj. Gen. Stanley Green, seen here in a camera's viewfinder, says his troops at Fort Bliss are ready for action.

Fort Bliss general says troops ready

By CHRIS ROBERTS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

EL PASO — The man in charge of most of the nation's Patriot missile forces said Wednesday that his soldiers had not yet been called to duty, but are prepared.

"They're very focused and they have a clear understanding that they have a contribution to make," post commander Maj. Gen. Stanley Green said. "There's some real strength that wells up with our soldiers and with their families."

Green also said the mission of Fort Bliss units stationed in the Persian Gulf before the terror attacks on Washington and New York hasn't changed.

Patriot missiles were used against Iraqi Scud missiles

during Operation Desert Storm in 1991 as protection for airstrips and other ground facilities.

"We will continually be evaluating whether to deploy folks," Green said of the U.S. military leadership. "Air defense is considered in every one of our plans in terms of deploying soldiers, regardless of the size" of the group of soldiers.

The Air Force prepared Wednesday to dispatch dozens of warplanes to the Persian Gulf area for the promised war on terrorism.

Combat aircraft, including F-16 Fighting Falcons and F-15 Eagles, will be preceded by Air Force airlift control teams from bases in California and New Jersey, senior defense officials said.

Lt. Sage Park, spokeswoman for Dyess AFB in Abi-

lene, said that, due to operational security, she couldn't say if B-1s at the base are part of the deployment.

"We stand ready to be able to participate in the deployment if called upon by the president," Park said.

Green said the nearly 12,000 active troops at Fort Bliss were continuing their routines.

"My focus in this entire time frame has been to try and maintain a sense of normalcy," Green said. "We are capable of deploying within hours of being notified."

Without elaboration, Green said the level of post security was lowered a notch this week but the action won't shorten the waiting times to enter the post as guards carefully check the required identifications.

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Brooks detector was used

Device can help track survivors

BY SIG CHRISTENSON
EXPRESS NEWS STAFF WRITER

A radar-gun-shaped device that can track heartbeat and respiration rates through concrete, developed in part by Brooks AFB, was used this week in the search for victims at the World Trade Center.

The Remote Casualty Location and Assessment Device found no survivors. But it did work as designed by the local base and California-based Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, the Air Force said Wednesday.

"When the teams from the laboratory arrived on scene, they demonstrated to the civil authorities in New York City at ground zero that it did indeed work by putting human beings on the other side of rubble and demonstrating vital signs," Brooks spokesman Larry Farlow said. "And only after proving the device were they allowed to proceed with the search."

Dubbed RCLAD, the device hadn't been tested outside the lab until Saturday, when nine scientists from Livermore's labs used it in New York. The scientists ended their tryout of the device at the huge crime scene on Tuesday, almost a week after the last survivor of the terror attack was pulled from the rubble.

RCLAD's development is rooted in a harsh irony of war: In Vietnam, as many as one-fifth of medics were killed trying to reach comrades who already were dead.

Medics are able to point the RCLAD device at a victim and detect vital signs from up to 60 feet away. It also can read vital signs through as much as 30 feet of rubble.

"I saw it as a breakthrough," said Maj. Al Gracia, whose Brooks office is overseeing the Air Force's research.

"If you have a new technology that allows you to get to victims while they're still alive, that is worth its weight in gold," said Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, the Pentagon's top spokesman.

RCLAD uses impulse radar to fire a multiple-frequency beam.

The low-level radar beam, powered by a 9-volt battery, projects less energy than a standard airport metal detector, said Gracia, chief of the warfighter requirements and commercial products team at Brooks' Human Systems Program Office.

The beam on a basic RCLAD picks up heartbeat and respiration from one person at one time.

In the prototype used in New York, vital signs were displayed on a laptop computer attached by cables to the hand-held probe. In time, Brooks researchers hope to combine all of RCLAD's features into one hand-held device, Gracia said.

Brooks expects to produce that RCLAD in one to two years. Ultimately, the base aims to produce the device at \$100 each.

Livermore scientists patented the technology used in the device in 1996. The technology is found in electronic avoidance systems, such as those used to help motorists avoid objects while backing up, and devices that can find wall studs behind Sheetrock.

The 1996 Khobar Towers dormitory blast that left 19 U.S. airmen dead in Saudi Arabia prompted Brooks researchers, one a combat physician, to wonder if the technology could be used to find bombing victims.

Researchers at Wright-Patterson AFB were evaluating a Brooks proposal to develop the technology just before last week's attacks. Officials at both Wright-Patterson and the Pentagon are expected to fund further research by Oct. 1, the start of the federal fiscal year.

But syndicated columnist and retired Army Col. David Hackworth had reservations about the efficacy of the device, saying "a highly complex, technical item like that would probably not make the wear and tear of the battlefield."

However, he added, the device "would have many applications for intelligence-gathering to determine if somebody's in a bunker."

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U.S. begins deployment



Petty Officer 1st Class Bernard Sampson Sr. holds his son, Bernard Jr., as he prepares to leave for duty on the Theodore Roosevelt out of Norfolk, Va. His wife, Dorla, wipes a tear from her eye Wednesday while holding their daughter, Khadijah. The aircraft carrier's departure was planned before the attack.

MARK GORMUS/ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Presidential address set for tonight

By THOMAS E. RICKS
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — As American warplanes began flying overseas from U.S. bases, President Bush was set to rally domestic support for a battle on terrorism in a televised speech to Congress tonight.

In his speech, Bush is expected to detail the threat posed by terror suspect Osama bin Laden while seeking to reassure an anxious public.



The Pentagon on Wednesday ordered dozens of fighters, bombers and other aircraft to the Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean and — in an unprecedented move — the two former Soviet republics of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, Defense Department officials

said.

In the military's first concrete steps toward war, the aircraft being deployed under what the Pentagon dubbed "Operation Infinite Justice" include F-15 fighter-bombers, F-16 fighters, B-1 long-range bombers, AWACS airborne command-and-control aircraft, refuelers and other support aircraft, officials said.

Several additional waves of deployments are expected as the war buildup continues, according to Pentagon planners.

"There are movements, and you will see more movements," Deputy Defense

Secretary Paul Wolfowitz told reporters.

"It's going to be big," an Air Force officer added. "The president has to decide how big."

The movement of the U.S. warplanes is the first step in fleshing out the sweeping rhetoric that Bush and his senior officials have used in recent days to describe the scope and duration of their planned counterattack on terrorism.

Bush aides said the president's speech tonight will describe efforts the administration will make to stimulate the economy, stabilize the airline industry, improve airline safety and head off future attacks.

However, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said he also will underscore the potential sacrifices that will be necessary in "a very long campaign" that could be as much "a war of will and mind" as of armies and beachheads.

After meeting with congressional leaders Wednesday, Bush said he would use his second speech to Congress since becoming president to "urge our fellow Americans to go back to work and to work hard."

But he said he would also emphasize that "we must be on alert" while the government works hard to "run down every lead, every opportunity to find someone who would want to hurt any American."

Bush and senior administration officials spent another day lining up international support for military, financial and economic actions that the president said would be designed to locate terrorist leaders, "get them out of their caves, get them moving, cut off their finances."

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri and the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Germany, and Russia were in Washington for consultations.

Between the Air Force and the Navy, the United States already has enough airpower in the Persian Gulf region to carry out what the Pentagon calls a major theater war.

The additional forces now being deployed will mean it can attack any country in the eastern hemisphere, while still continuing its patrols of the no-fly zones over Iraq's north and south imposed at the end of the Gulf War in 1991.

Pentagon planners said the aircraft will provide cover for U.S. Special Forces missions out of Pakistan against alleged terrorists and countries that support them, beginning with bin Laden, who's believed to be living in Afghanistan.

The aircraft also will be in position to conduct airstrikes against the militaries and government infrastructures of countries believed to harbor or support terrorists, they said.

President Bush has not issued orders on how to use the aircraft, but the planes already have begun to move overseas to provide him flexibility, officials said.

"The whole thing is complex," one officer said. "It's still evolving."

But, he added, the basic plan

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Aircraft deployed in fight for justice

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is "a mix of Special Forces and airpower ... with a lot of forces in position to do a lot of different operations over an extended period."

According to Pentagon officials, Special Forces would stage attacks against suspected terrorist hideouts — Afghanistan and possibly elsewhere — and then airstrikes would be used against the terrorists as they moved to more vulnerable locations.

Pentagon officials repeatedly have hinted they're contemplating military action against locations elsewhere than Afghanistan.

"This is about more than just one country," Wolfowitz said.

In the same vein, Bush said: "Anybody who houses a terrorist, encourages terrorism, will be held accountable."

The first aircraft left Wednesday for bases in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman and the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, in addition to the two Central Asian nations.

They'll join several hundred U.S. aircraft already based in the gulf region.

Since the war against Iraq, the United States has kept about 20,000 troops in the region, with some 5,000 in Saudi Arabia, about that number in Kuwait, and about 10,000 aboard Navy ships.

It has dozens of fighters and other aircraft in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and also keeps enough tanks, artillery pieces and trucks in Kuwait to outfit an Army brigade.

The deployment of U.S. warplanes to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, where Russia still has thousands of troops stationed, is unprecedented and is likely to be logistically difficult, given their remote location just to the north of Afghanistan.

It underscores how last week's attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon are reshaping America's relations with foreign nations across the globe.

It also could have important effects in the Central Asia region. The willingness of the former Soviet republics to accept U.S. forces will increase the pressure on Pakistan, Afghanistan's southern neighbor, to follow suit and also permit the U.S. military to operate from its soil.

The presence of F-15 fighter bombers in predominantly Muslim Central Asia also likely will decrease political pressure on Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. Air Force is planning to run its end of the war from Prince Sultan air base, near Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where this summer it opened the world's most advanced air operations center that can control the movements of hundreds of aircraft over an area of thousands of miles.

One of bin Laden's major objections to U.S. foreign policy is the presence of the American military in Saudi Arabia, which is home of Islam's holiest sites.

Additional U.S. forces began to move toward the Mideast on Wednesday as the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt sailed from Norfolk, Va., carrying about 75 aircraft. It is expected to join the two other U.S. carriers already in the region.

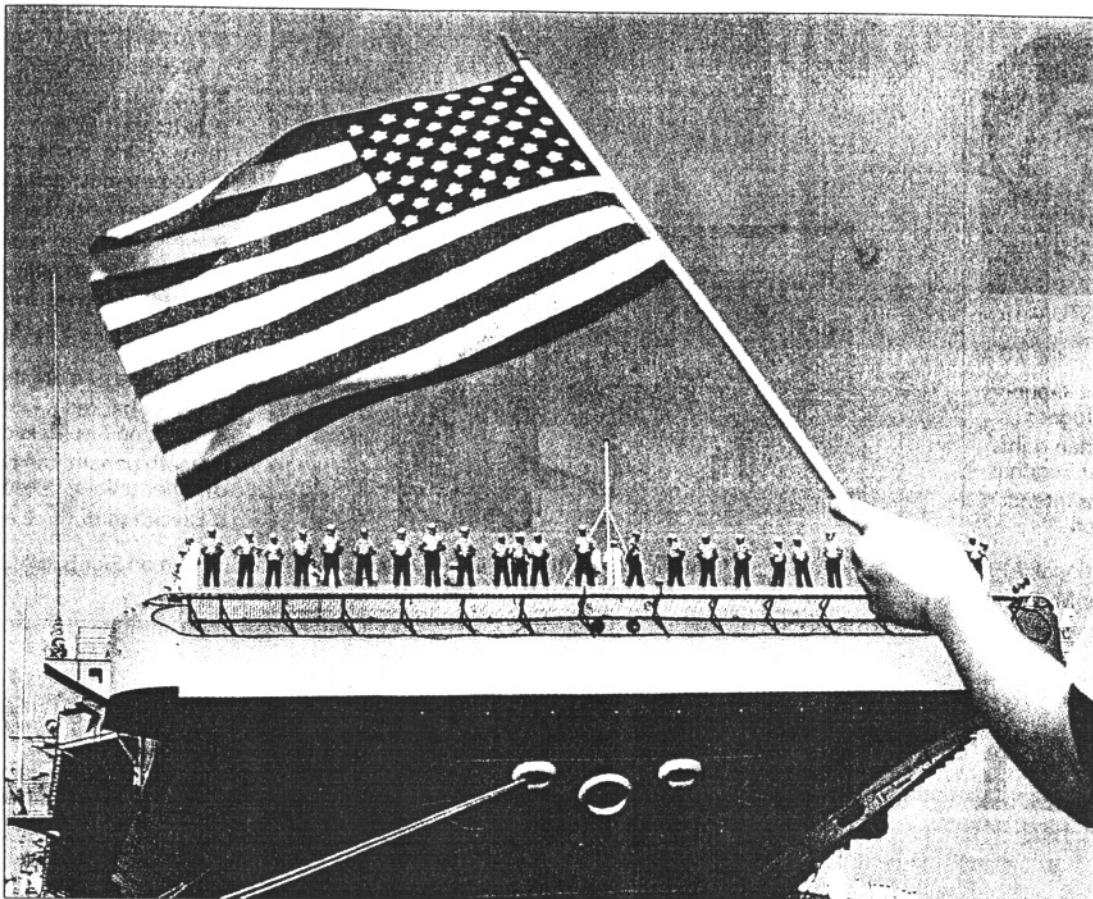
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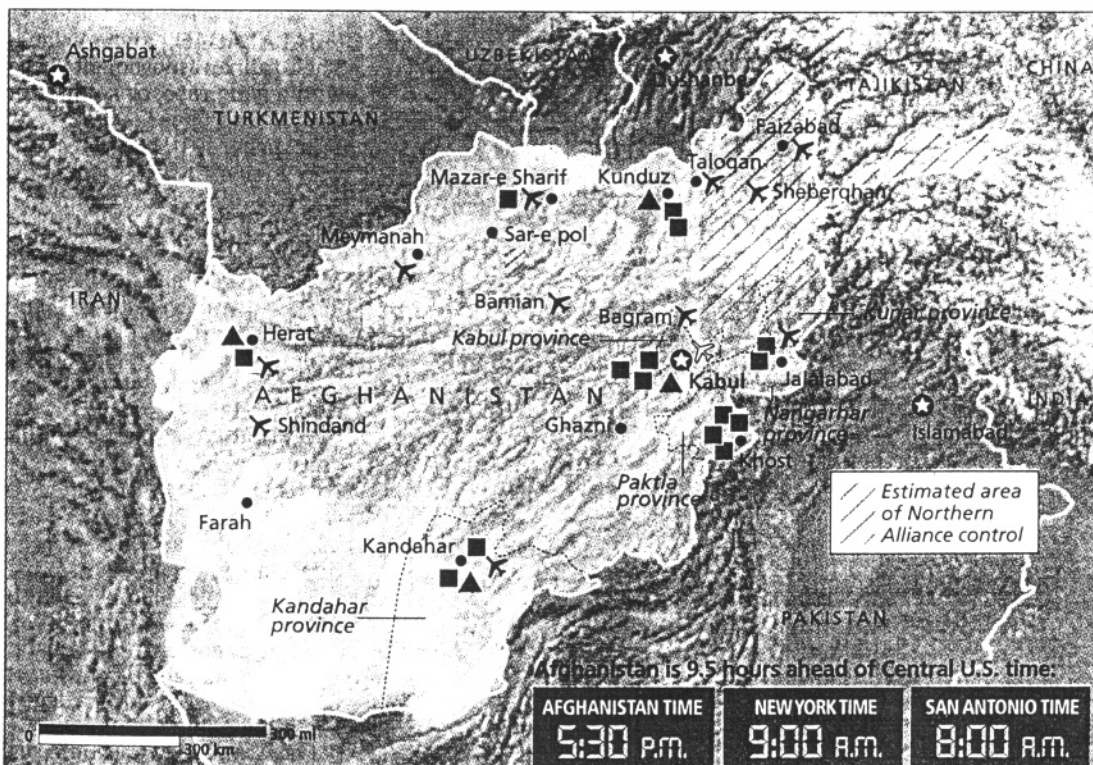
MARK GORMUS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A flag is waved Wednesday as the Theodore Roosevelt leaves Norfolk, Va. The aircraft carrier's departure for the Mediterranean was planned before the attacks in New York and Washington.

Focus on Afghanistan

Afghanistan is mountainous and filled with many places to hide. Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in last week's attacks, is thought to be harbored there by the Taliban regime and the country fears reprisals.

■ Training camps/militia bases ▲ Taliban army bases ✕ Military and/or civilian airfields ✈ Intl. Airport



Sources: ESRI; Jane's; GlobalSecurity.org; compiled from AP wire reports

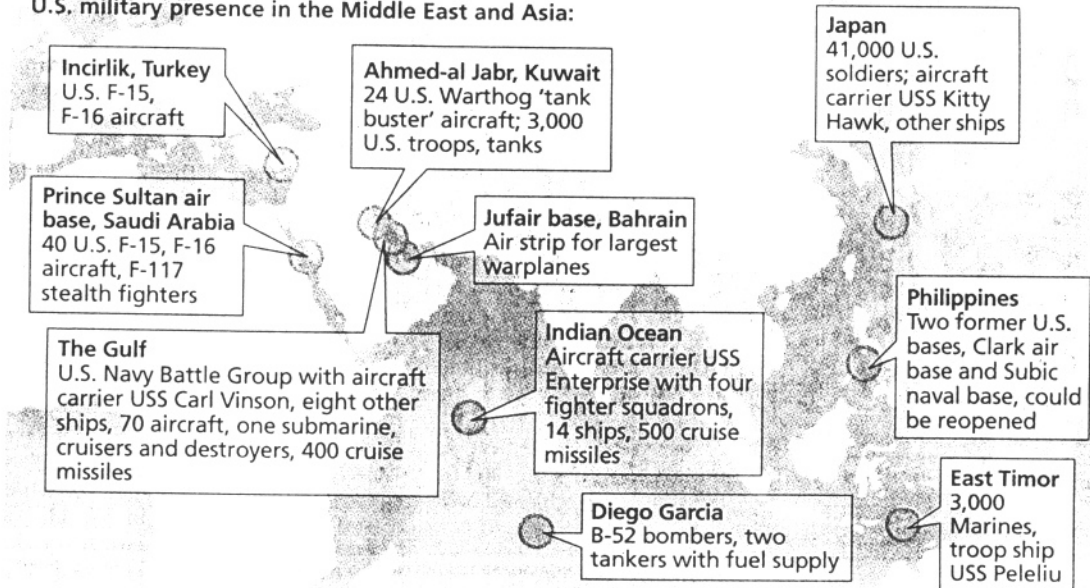
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U.S. forces prepare for retaliation

In addition to military forces already in place, the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt is en route, with 75-85 airplanes, five other warships and three amphibious Marine ships. A second deployment order, not yet issued, could put the number of aircraft involved to more than 100 planes.

U.S. military presence in the Middle East and Asia:



Source: Wire reports

EXPRESS-NEWS GRAPHIC

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FOCUS: COVERAGE OF TERROR ATTACKS

Answer fifth 'W'

In reporting on the terrorist attack, journalists are doing a first-rate job of answering the first four of journalism's "five Ws" (who, what, when and where).

Unfortunately, the fifth "W" (why) is receiving very little attention. I hope journalists will answer the fifth "W" shortly.

— Al A. Walsh,
Del Rio

Seek the truth

Now is the time for the media of this country to do the right thing.

Report facts, not speculation. Seek truth, not sensationalism. Seek to inform the American public, not to mislead us.

Watching broadcast coverage of the horrible events of Sept. 11 has left me wondering if we can trust what we're being told. So much emphasis on style, so little emphasis on substance.

The media have an obligation to inform, to seek the truth above all else. We are fortunate to live in a country where the media are free to do just that. Yet time and time again, the media misuse this freedom by choosing to carelessly use their power to sensationalize, frighten and mislead the American public.

I call on the media to help us in these terrible times. What an opportunity to help calm the country, to help educate us about the Muslim people, the history of conflict in the Middle East, the truth about these terrorist groups and the fact that they no more represent Islam than Timothy McVeigh represents Christianity.

Knowledge is power; ignorance breeds fear and contempt and fuels the flame of hatred and prejudice.

— Bill Reynolds

Photo too painful

While reading the newspaper the day after the tragedy, I was appalled by the photograph of people falling from the upper stories of the World Trade Center.

To use the last terrifying moments of a doomed person's life in a newspaper or on television is in the very worst taste.

My life will be haunted by that image, and I will see those people's last moments in my dreams for a long time. I hope in the future the Express-News will think twice about publishing a photo that only sensationalizes a tragic event.

— Kathryn Stribley

Guidelines: Have something to say? Then write us at Letters, Express-News, P.O. Box 2171, San Antonio, 78297, fax to (210) 250-3465, or e-mail to letters@express-news.net. All letters, including e-mail, should have full name (no initials or pseudonyms, please), address and daytime telephone number. Length? The shorter the better — long enough to make your point. All letters are subject to editing for length and clarity.

Insensitive cartoon

On Saturday, the eve of Mexico's Independence Day celebrations and in the aftermath of the tragic events last week, the Express-News chose to publish the most insensitive editorial cartoon about President and Mrs. Fox's visit to Washington.

This goes to show that Americans have a long way to go when it comes to showing tolerance and sensitivity toward other cultures. Our penchant for mocking everybody from the pope to the president has hit a new low.

— Annette S. Medina

Great teaching tool

As a middle school teacher in the Northside School District, I put aside my lesson plans at times to try to help my students understand and stay informed of the tragedy that has hit our great nation.

I was so grateful that other teachers and I are part of the Express-News Newspaper in Education program.

With class sets of newspapers, I was able to share with these young Americans the photos and articles that are the community's link to what is happening in other parts of the nation during this disastrous and historic time.

I want to thank the Express-News for making my job of informing students a little easier.

Also, a special thanks for the American flag in Friday's paper. We put them on our classroom doors to show our patriotism.

— Lauren Henderson

Balance the hysteria

Shame on the Express-News! How can a newspaper that bills itself as unbiased and fair feature an article on Pastor John Hagee's end of the world theory ("Hagee sees approach of Apocalypse," Monday)?



HAGEE

It is shocking to see the paper trying to create more hysteria in a city already filled with fear and mourning.

I urge you to do what is right and balance this tabloid story with thoughts from other religious leaders around our city, which, hopefully, would include some who don't harbor the same radical, misinterpreted judgments as that fundamentalist leader Hagee.

— Patty Loving

KMOL clutter

What possible motive could KMOL-TV have had to send a reporter to New York to clutter up the emergency situation around the World Trade Center?

NBC was providing up-to-the-minute coverage from every possible angle, and I'm not aware of one locally specific report relayed by the San Antonio visitor.

— John Whiting

Promos shameless

Like most of America, I was glued to the television for hours. I got so tired of trying to see what was going on through the self-promotion logos and banners.

I could hardly see what was happening during the prayer service at the National Cathedral. I started watching C-SPAN because it seems to have the least amount of distracting junk on the screen.

Still, was it necessary to have "Live" in a large red box, "C-SPAN" in a blue box and "National Prayer Service" along the bottom?

Every television station has been guilty of unseemly self-promotion, and I'm sick of it. (As far as I can tell, KSAT is the worst, with its giant red box taking up about a sixth of the screen.)

— Hollis Osburn



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Report price gouging

Many times I have seen the news media inform the public of the locations of gas stations with the lowest prices.

In view of our national emergency and the irresistible urge of some businesses to profit from the situation at the expense of the public, why not inform the public of the highest price locations as well?

Encourage drivers to report locations of price gouging stations to your paper and other media. The media could report those locations to the public so drivers can boycott those stations.

— Billy Howard

'Dean' despicable

Columnist David Broder has announced that in the name of "realism" liberals would be willing to increase the defense budget to combat terrorism in exchange for President Bush's yielding on missile defense, education and taxes ("Reality setting in for Bush's nation," Sept. 13).

Broder's remorseless partisan opportunism in the midst of national tragedy shows why he is considered the "dean of political reporters."

Many pundits are talking about war but how many are willing to do

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OUR TURN

Isolation not option in changing world

The United States long had the luxury of remaining remote — even provincial — in its relationship to the rest of the world.

Before last week, many people worried that the Bush administration was setting an isolationist course.

All that has changed.

Now, the president finds himself walking in his father's footsteps, pulling together a world coalition to fight the scourge of terrorism.

However, the U.S. tendency, even desire, to ignore the rest of the world is exemplified many ways.

The first is geography.

How many people knew before this week where Afghanistan is? A long-standing joke in editorial writing concerns writing about Afghanistan. That is shorthand for writing about a topic that no one either knows about or cares about. This week we all care very much.

In this world, we must know the whereabouts of nations such as Pakistan, Afghanistan and surrounding former Soviet Union states such as Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. We also must understand their history and politics.

The second is language.

In many nations, the majority of

Americans can't remain provincial. Survival depends on understanding the world.

people — not just the elite — speak two, three or four languages. That's practical because they interact with people of diverse nationalities.

Many South Texans only now are understanding that becoming bilingual — adding Spanish to the mastery of English — will be increasingly important.

This nation needs many more people who speak and write Arabic to understand the people and their culture.

Even many journalists who cover the Middle East do not speak the language.

Third is an understanding of world religions, particularly Islam.

Islamic scholars are denouncing violence as a tenant of that religion. One compared Osama bin Laden's distortion of its message to David Koresh's distortion of Christianity.

Political, cultural and linguistic isolation no longer is an option.



Express News

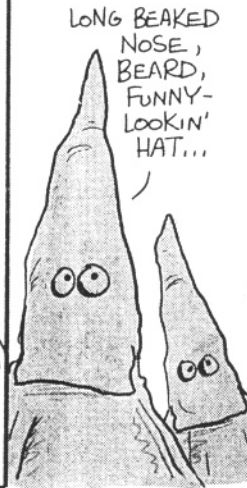
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Nacho Guarache

by Leo Garza



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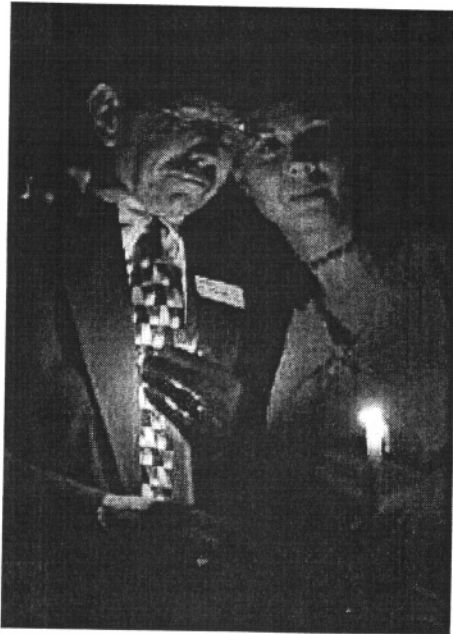
Wednesday 19 September, 2001

Top Stories

Vigil service remembers those lost

By: Scott Fitzgerald, Staff Writer

September 19, 2001



Raaberg spoke about reverence and asked 40 other people attending the service in the AdventureQuest amphitheater to reflect on it.

Kim Ford is comforted by Stacia Paul during a candlelight vigil in remembrance of those lost during the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon last week. The event was held at Leonardo's Adventure Quest. (Staff Photo by PAUL RUTHERFORD)

Col. Doug Raaberg said he didn't participate in Tuesday night's candlelight service to talk about United States' air strike strategy in a recently announced war against terrorism.

In fact, the commander of Vance Air Force Base's 71st Flying Training Wing, didn't sound any kind of rallying cry.

Rather, Raaberg spoke about reverence and asked 40 other people attending the service in the AdventureQuest amphitheater to reflect on it.

"We should focus on the gold stars. There are plenty of those hurting in our nation who have gold stars in their windows," Raaberg said.

VANCE AFB OK

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Gold stars were a tradition in World War II. Parents or spouses of American casualties pasted the symbols in their windows.

"It was a beacon of those who have gone before us. They gave their lives for our nation," Raaberg said.

Raaberg defined reverence as "that what you see and that what you don't see."

It is an important quality an airman exercises when he approaches the flight line for the first time.

"We look up," Raaberg said.

Former Sky Lab 3 astronaut Owen K. Garriott of America's Space Program said Americans need to teach tolerance and think of all the implications of the country's involvement in the Middle East.

Tolerance is having the capacity to understand, or more importantly accept, people who look different, think differently and have different beliefs, Garriott said.

"Teaching tolerance is an important part of reaching the solution," Garriott said.

America needs to be careful not to impose cultural differences upon Middle East societies, Garriott said.

The service followed an Enid Arts & Science Foundation banquet that provided members with the latest information concerning a current endowment campaign.


More than \$600,000 has been raised from community pledges and matches. The goal is to get \$1 million, said Jeff White, foundation vice president.

"That will make us completely self-sufficient. We will be able to support all of our operating, maintenance and facilities for Leonardo's Discovery Warehouse and Adventure Quest," White said.

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Reader Opinions

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• Wednesday, September 19, 2001

Military bases remain on high alert

BACK IN BUSINESS: Local installations approaching full swing.

(Photo: Amn. Michael Kramer, 325th Security Forces gate sentry, places a flag near his post as a sign of America's solidarity and in remembrance of the victims of last Tuesday's terrorist attack. Contributed Photo: Capt. Chris Karns.)



MOHAMMAD A. FARUQUI

The News Herald

Although business at local military bases is approaching full swing, Tyndall Air Force Base and the Navy Coastal Systems Station are still on high alert.

Only those with Department of Defense identification cards will be allowed on Tyndall without an escort. In addition to military personnel, civil service employees have such IDs.

"If someone like an insurance salesman is coming in, and an office is expecting him, someone will have to go to the gate to pick (the salesman) up and escort him in," said Russ Casey, a Tyndall spokesman. "There will be no phone vouching" for a non-ID holder.

Another Tyndall spokesman, Capt. Chris Karnes, said he could not comment on whether gate guards will conduct vehicle searches.

"But people need to expect delays because of the heightened security posture," he said.

Base recreational facilities, which are usually accessible to military retirees and dependents, are under increased restrictions until further notice.

"Some things aren't up and running yet because of the increased force protection," Casey said. "The skeet range is closed, Tyndall Aero Club doesn't know when it will open, and all hunting is closed."

Other Tyndall services, such as the golf course, the marina and the clubs are open - but only to those with military identification cards.

All military and Department of Defense civilians are back at work at the Coastal Systems Station.

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In addition to ID checks on everyone entering the base, random vehicle inspections are still in effect, said base spokesman Steve Applegate.

"We're still at heightened security, but anyone with permanent badges, including contractors, will be able to get onboard," Applegate said. "Other contractors that have temporary badges should be in close contact with" the departments they work for, he said.

He said temporary contractors will have to arrive at the base after 10 a.m. to help reduce traffic at the gates.

"The gate at U.S. 98 is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. for inbound traffic," Applegate said. "But if there's such a long line that it becomes a traffic safety issue, you should go around to the Thomas Drive gate."

Military retirees and dependents are being allowed to use the Navy Exchange store at the Coastal Systems Station.

But the marina, bowling alley, gymnasium, handball courts and baseball diamonds are open only to on-base personnel, Applegate said.

The Veterans Affairs clinic is taking patients after 10 a.m., but they will be allowed on base only if they show an appointment letter.

The writer can be contacted at mfaruqui@pcnh.com

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Wednesday, September 19, 2001

Bodies of Two NYPD Officers Found

Caption: Bright lights shine on the area where the World Trade Center once stood as dawn approaches, Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2001, in New York. Workers continue their search for victims as the second week begins since the terrorist attack that leveled the twin towers. (AP Photo/Ron Frehm)



JIM FITZGERALD
 Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) _ They pulled the bodies of two police officers from the ruins of the World Trade Center on Wednesday, and dogged searchers took a moment to salute before returning to a task that seemed more hopeless with each passing hour.

"It was touching to see everyone pay their respects. I was bawling," said a puffy-eyed detective Bobby Bell, after watching police, firefighters, sanitation workers and volunteers honor the two fallen officers.

The only solace for a city in mourning was the disclosure that a federal grand jury was already at work, seeking justice for those responsible for the deaths of those officers and more than 5,000 other victims.

The grand jury, which would typically include between 16 and 23 jurors, has been meeting in White Plains, a northern suburb since last week. The community is part of the federal court system's Southern District of New York, which has historically led investigations related to Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the attacks.

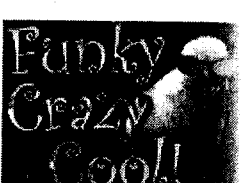
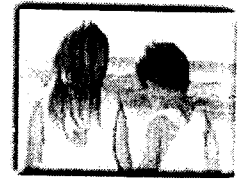
News of the grand jury's activities came as the number of confirmed dead climbed to 218, with a staggering 5,422 missing in the seven-story heap of rubble at the southern tip of Manhattan.

"We haven't changed from rescue to recovery," Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik said Wednesday morning on CBS' "The Early Show." "I think with every day, every hour and every minute that goes by, that hope diminishes. Right now it's not looking too good."

On Tuesday, teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency poked fiber-optic cameras into the gloom of what used to be a shopping concourse underneath the towers and found no one alive for a sixth day.

"We've got men and women down there just working their hearts out trying to get to individuals that may still be alive," FEMA director Joe Allbaugh said Wednesday on NBC's "Today" show. "Every minute that goes by is a minute against us."

Just 152 bodies have been identified _ little more than 2 percent of the dead and missing. More searchers are wearing "Recovery" badges on their uniforms, indicating they're looking for bodies and body parts.



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"We don't have any substantial amount of hope we can offer anyone that we will find anyone alive. We have to prepare people for that overwhelming reality," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said.

Members of Congress, some of whom will be influential in getting more federal aid for the city, got a look at the recovery operation Tuesday from a short block away.

"I can't tell you how much this meant to us to really understand fully the dimensions of your problems," said Sen. Jim Jeffords, the Vermont independent.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said, "When you see it close up, you see a completely different dimension."

Gov. George Pataki proposed \$12,000-a-year scholarships to New York's public colleges for families of victims of last week's terrorism, even those from other states and countries.

"I think the state of New York should make sure no family will suffer unduly because they happened to have been in the wrong place at the wrong time," Assembly Higher Education Chairman Edward Sullivan said. "They were killed in our state. They weren't singled out by terrorists, we were all singled out by terrorists."

While much of the city bustled in its trademark way Tuesday, a reminder of the sorrow downtown wafted into boardrooms and restaurants whenever the wind shifted.

Handmade posters of the missing plastered virtually every neighborhood, and memorials with candles and flowers have sprouted in front of many of the city's firehouses and police stations.

Many New Yorkers paused on their way to work to mark the moment exactly one week earlier _ Tuesday, 8:48 a.m. _ when the airborne attack began. From ground zero to the police command center to Union Square, people stopped what they were doing.

On Wall Street, investors seemed to settle into the changed circumstances: There was an ordinary, 17-point drop in the Dow after Monday's 685-point plunge.

Tuesday was the first day of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein told his Manhattan congregation that New York had become a caring and compassionate community since the catastrophe. He urged congregants to maintain those values in the year ahead.

"Our city changed," he said. "It is no longer just about ourselves and our achievements."

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Thornberry lists agenda

Airline industry, defense top congressional priorities

Christina Vance
Times Record News

Strengthening airline companies, structuring defenses, and steeling Joe Q. Citizen's resolve are top congressional priorities in the wake of last week's terrorist attacks, U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry said.

The Clarendon Republican told reporters Tuesday in his Wichita Falls office Congress will develop long- and short-term strategies to deal with the aftermath of the nation's deadliest terrorist attacks that killed thousands in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington last week.

Congress is considering a relief package for airline companies reeling from lost profits. Thornberry said the package could include a cut on fuel taxes, free security personnel, loans and other factors. He said Congress should debate the package by next week.

"Some of the airlines have indicated they can't last much longer with some of the losses they've suffered," Thornberry said.

Other short-term plans include an economic stimulus package to perk up the national economy, as well as the possibility of giving federal judges advanced authority to wiretap phones being used by certain individuals, he said.

While favoring the wiretapping plan, Thornberry urged caution in being too invasive of individual rights.

"We cannot give away the essential Constitutional freedoms that have made us the greatest country in the world," he said.

Long term plans could include gathering intelligence, organizing government security measures, reforming military strategy and utilizing a mix of diplomacy, trade and covert intelligence to crack a

terrorist net extending around the world, Thornberry said.

He stressed the importance each citizen stay determined as the United States moves toward a war on terrorism.

"It's going to be long. It's going to be hard, and it's not going to be over in just a few weeks or months," he said. "The way to defeat a terrorist is to refuse to be terrified."

Thornberry urged his constituents to educate themselves on who the suspected bombers are and to avoid stereotyping anyone because of religious beliefs. Likening Muslims to terrorists is similar to likening Christians to the Ku Klux Klan, he said.

"This is not a war against Islam and the people who practice their faith. This is a war against terrorism," he said. "We should not give in to the simple-minded rage against people who look different or practice a different faith."

JOLTED OUT OF COMPLACENCY

Terrorists never understand, strength of
America found in the hearts of her people

Rep. Mac Thornberry
13th Congressional District

Sept. 11, 2001, was a day we will all long remember. We'll remember where we were and what we did.

I'll remember dropping off the kids at school on the way to a breakfast meeting with the secretary of defense at the Pentagon and hearing something about the World Trade Center as I was leaving — about half an hour before a plane slammed into the other side of the building.

I'll remember being evacuated from my office on Capitol Hill shortly after 10 a.m. as reports came in that another hijacked plane was headed toward the Capitol. And I'll remember the relief I felt several hours later when my family was together at our house in the Washington suburbs.

We'll all remember those people trapped in the

hijacked airplanes and in the World Trade Center and what it must have been like for them. We'll think about the policemen, firemen and rescue workers — some of whom died trying to help others.

But most of all, we'll remember it as a day when we were jolted out of our complacency — when it was vividly demonstrated that it is still a dangerous world, with those that hate the United States and all we stand for and that every American at home, work or play is a potential target. The attacks of Sept. 11 are merely a sample of the kinds of threats we will face in the future as our nation will be challenged more threats, from more real and potential adversaries, using a greater variety of methods of attack than ever before.

We should be very clear about it: The United States — our people, our buildings, our

values and all that we stand for — has been attacked. We must defend ourselves — even if there is not an easy-to-find enemy; even if it means a long, drawn-out struggle; even if it means that the war does not fit into our traditional ideas of warfare. A few cruise missiles or air strikes in the desert will not be enough. We have to be in it for the long haul.

Although it may be hard to imagine, it could have been even worse. Several studies and commissions have predicted that it is only a matter of time before some group attempts an attack on our homeland using chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. We should

Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, Texas
Times Record News, 19 Sep 2001, Page 7B
Email: www.trnonline.com

not assume that this attack is the worst we will face.

Our primary efforts now will be dealing with the direct aftermath of the attacks and being very cautious about assuming that they are over. We will have to keep our guard up.

But we will have to take action in three other critical areas:

■ We must beef up our intelligence efforts — with more resources, fewer restrictions, and much greater emphasis.

Intelligence is our first and best line of defense.

■ We must reorganize federal agencies to better deal with this more complicated security environment. We still operate under the basic

security structure developed just after World War II. Today more than 40 agencies have some responsibility for homeland security. It will take more than incremental changes. Bold steps — even if it means stepping on bureaucratic toes — are needed.

■ We must reform our military — everything from its personnel policies, to its acquisition processes, to its professional education. It will take more than tanks and aircraft carriers to provide our security in the future. Our military must be able to deal with a broader array of threats. Business as usual will not be good enough to do the job.

Despite the difficulties, I am absolutely certain that we are up to the challenge. As enemies have found in the past, America can seem distracted and divided. But faced with a challenge, we always rise to the occasion

and do whatever is necessary to prevail.

What the terrorists will never understand is that the strength of America is the hearts of our people. They may attack our buildings; they may attack innocent civilians. But they can never harm the thing that makes us great — it's inside us.

I will remember that on the night of Sept. 11, 2001, church services were held across the country — from Clarendon, Texas, to Washington, D.C. — as people prayed for those affected the tragedy and for strength and courage to face what lies ahead.

I believe that God will continue to bestow his blessings on this favored land, and each day I will thank him for the opportunity to be an American.

Mac Thornberry represents the 13th Congressional District of Texas.

Bomb threat at mall

ALEJANDRA VALDEZ

Staff Writer

Del Rio Police responded to an emergency call made by a Zales employee Monday evening after a man said something to her then yelled that he was going to "blow something up" at the Plaza del Sol Mall. The call was made at 7:22 p.m.

From his station outside of the K-Mart entrance, Police Officer Steve Berg said, "There was a bomb scare and the mall was evacuated. Laughlin security are still inside checking the mall. One person has been detained with charges pending."

Berg continued, "We're taking it very seriously and we'll make sure everything is okay."

Radio Shack Manager Bill Villarreal was one of the mall employees who took it on himself to make sure everyone was out of the mall safely.

"Police were cool, calm and collected. They made an on-spot decision and they had the guy in custody. They didn't wait. They evacuated the mall safely. They were sweating, but you couldn't tell," said Villarreal.

Villarreal, along with four police officers, mall security and two military recruiters raced through the mall going into the different stores to warn customers and employees not to panic, but to walk calmly out of the building.

Plaza del Sol Mall was completely evacuated in about eight minutes, according to Villarreal.

"They did real good. The exits were blocked and are still blocked. Blanca Larson, the Plaza del Sol manager, was really calm, so was mall security. The guys went into action in a safe, cool, calm and collected manner."

At 9:19 p.m., close to 100 people were standing under the Cincmark Theaters marquee sign along Avenue F, waiting for the mall to be safe to return to. Employees, as well as customers, waited nervously for Laughlin security forces to emerge from the mall with news. DRPD's Lt. Steven Webb finally walked across the parking lot to the area where the individuals had been evacuated and said, "The dog has gone through and nothing was found. We appreciate your help. Now you can go back in. If you should happen to see anything strange in your store, please call."

Webb explained to the crowd that the person was detained and a call had come in from Zales. He had gone through another store and "had fun there."

Blanca Larson was immediately informed and arrived at the mall. "I don't know when we were called, but police had already gone into plan. It's better to handle situations in this manner, even if it is a joke. There were charges pressed,

the police are interviewing the woman he spoke to. I was told the mall was evacuated in about seven minutes, that's not bad."

Larson stated incidents such as this one, whether or not a prank, would not be taken lightly. "The man was caught and is in custody. The person in Zales who called 911 is who the charges will go through. Even if you insinuate something like this, you will be charged, especially at these times," said Larson, referring to the crisis the nation has dealt with since the attack on Sept. 11.

Larson said, "We want to make sure customers are safe and to let them know this will not be taken lightly."

At the time of the incident, the mall had only one security officer working. Larson decided uniformed security officers would be needed for about a week. "We had only one security officer, but police responded in 30 seconds. The fire department is the same way. We have

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LAUGHLIN AFB, TX

DEL RIO NEWS HERALD

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never had a problem with them responding promptly," said Larson. Ruth Puente, an 18-year-old Festival Shoes employee said she was in the back of the store when the mall security came calling for them to leave. "It was a scary thing. I was in the back when Silverio came by yelling for everyone to get out. At those moments, all you think about is your life. I called home on a cell phone from outside."

Puente's mother arrived soon after she received the call, "It scared me. It scared me to think that something could have happened to her."

A woman who wished not to give her name spoke of strange events while shopping at JC Penney. "Before the bomb threat was called, a young man approached me and asked if I wanted to buy clothes half

price. I didn't know what he was talking about so I didn't say anything. He said he had friends who were at another store getting clothes for another lady and they were going to meet her outside of the mall and sell the clothes to her at half the price. I told him nicely I wasn't interested. I tried to be nice because he scared me. Right after that is when the bomb threat calls came through the mall."

The woman said she then got her young daughters and left the items she had in her arms at the store. She did not think of the young man again until she drove to her husband's work place, also on Avenue F, and she saw that the young man was now at a restaurant across the street at the mall. After telling her husband, the woman returned to the mall to see if

relatives working that evening were alright.

"I don't know if that had anything to do with the man arrested, but I was scared to tell the police," she continued.

Police took into custody an adult male, of a small, thin frame. His hair was closely shaven.

"Val Verde Sheriff's office came by to check. We probably had a total of 25 officers, from all the agencies. The initial response was made by Lt. John Lissner, myself, Sr. Officer Adauto, Pedro Salas and Efrain Guzman. As soon as we got on-scene, we had him in custody. Lt. Lissner and Salas took him into custody," said Berg.

"We took it very seriously, we have citizens to protect," Berg continued.



News-Herald Photo by Alejandra Valdez

Del Rio Police Lt. Steven Webb gives the all-clear to employees and customers at Plaza del Sol Mall, who were evacuated Monday evening after a man ran through the mall shouting he was going to "blow something up." The man, who was not immediately identified by police, was taken into custody. Mall officials said businesses were evacuated quickly and without incident and a thorough check of businesses did not reveal anything unusual.

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LAUGHLIN AFB, TX

DEL RIO NEWS HERALD

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Vance team sent to Asia

► 71st squadron responsible for base defense and security

Members of the 71st Security Forces Squadron at Vance Air Force Base deployed Saturday to Southwest Asia in support of a recurring Aerospace Expeditionary Force mission.

The 13-person law enforcement squad will be responsible for law enforcement activities, including installation entry control, patrol, investigations and pass and registration.

The squad's exact destination was not disclosed.

"This is a vital, but sometimes not as well known, part of our mission of 'Training airmen ... America's leaders,'" said Col. Doug Raaberg, 71st Flying Training Wing commander. "We continually support aerospace expeditionary forces worldwide not only during conflict or war but also during peacetime."

The Vance team will integrate with other Air Force security forces members at the deployed



A Vance Security Forces member participates in a recent base deployment exercise. (Photo provided)

location and also may be tasked to provide other security forces functions normally associated with an air base. These include aircraft security, convoy security and base defense.

"As I watched our security forces team depart Vance, I couldn't help but feel my chest swell up with pride as I rendered

a salute, normally reserved for our officer corps," said Senior Master Sgt. Kent Wilkinson, 71st Security Forces manager. "These young men and women embody our very core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. Our prayers and best wishes go with them and their families."

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Maxwell center gets new leader

MONTGOMERY — Maj. Gen. David F. MacGhee will replace Maj. Gen. Lance Smith today as commander of Headquarters Air Force Doctrine Center.

As the doctrine center's commander, MacGhee is responsible to the Air Force Chief of Staff for research, development and production of basic and operational doctrine. Besides the headquarters at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, MacGhee will oversee operating locations at the Pentagon, Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada and at five U.S. Army development centers and training schools. MacGhee was head of Air War College at Maxwell.

MAXWELL AFB, AL
Montgomery Advertiser, 20 Sep. 01, 1B

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Express-News: America in Agony

Bush to seek \$5 billion for airlines

By Gary Martin

Express-News Washington Bureau

Web Posted : 09/20/2001 12:00 AM

WASHINGTON — President Bush will seek \$5 billion in immediate cash aid from Congress to help the nation's beleaguered airlines recover from last week's terror attacks, an administration official said Wednesday.

But the president will not, for now, pursue the loans the industry says it needs to avoid bankruptcies, said the official, who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

U.S. airline executives pleaded with Congress on Wednesday for \$5 billion in cash, but they also asked for \$12.5 billion in loans and guarantees to keep the carriers solvent in the wake of huge losses tied to the Sept. 11 attacks.

White House advisers briefed key congressional staff on the \$5 billion package late Wednesday.

Airline executives, testifying Wednesday before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said the industry has lost \$24 billion as a result of the attacks, in which four commercial airliners were hijacked and three were crashed into buildings in New York and Washington.

Delta Air Lines Chairman Leo Mullin warned that three of the country's largest airlines are within days of filing for bankruptcy.

He said the airlines needed a relief package to help them reach a financial position where they can borrow from private markets.

"It will take a least a year to get back to those levels," Mullin said.

The request came as Dallas-based American Airlines said late Wednesday that it will lay off at least 20,000 employees. UAL, the parent firm of United Airlines, announced later that it too would lay off at least 20,000 workers.

U.S. Airways and Houston-based Continental Airlines previously announced layoffs totaling 23,000, and airline executives have estimated that industry furloughs could reach 100,000 by Christmas.

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"If the airline industry goes down, the terrorists will have won," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas. "I'm not going to allow that to happen. The government is going to shore up the airlines through this crisis."

An economic ripple from layoffs and lost revenues will be felt nationwide as the faltering airlines try to find their financial footing.

Gov. Rick Perry said financial difficulties in the airline could hit Texas hard, since it is home to three major airlines — American, Continental and Southwest — which employ 190,000 people nationwide.

He urged the state's congressional delegation to support a financial aid bill for the airline industry.

Airline executives, meanwhile, appeared before Congress with a sense of urgency.

"What we need is immediate cash infusion," said Douglas Parker, president and chief executive officer of America West Airlines.

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta met with airline officials earlier this week and backs the passage of a relief package being crafted in Congress.

House leaders were scrambling to put a relief package on the floor for a vote. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., predicted both chambers of Congress would pass the legislation this week.

Delta's Mullin said that without immediate action, several airlines would be forced to file bankruptcy within a couple of days.

"Among the top 10 airlines, there are three that are on the brink," Mullin said.

Although the deaths of passengers are covered by insurance, the fatalities on the ground were not. Tom Horton, American Airlines' chief financial officer, said liability could force the airline to file bankruptcy.

But Bush is proposing to help shield airlines from inevitable lawsuits related to last week's hijackings. He would bar punitive damages and consolidate all lawsuits into a single federal court. The government would also pick up whatever cost of compensating victims for damages ultimately exceeds the limits of airlines' insurance policies.

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Express-News: America in Agony

Claims of bias follow terror

By Roy Bragg

San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 09/20/2001 12:00 AM

Based on little more than skin color or accent, a national backlash against some Americans and foreign nationals is being felt in San Antonio.

Delta Air Lines said Wednesday that it is investigating claims by a Pakistani man who lives in New Braunfels that he was asked to leave a Monday night flight from San Antonio to Dallas.

The man, Ashraf Khan, said the plane's captain told him the crew did not feel safe with him aboard.

Also Monday, a diner at a local restaurant flung derogatory remarks at Orlando Lopes and his friends, thinking they were from the Middle East.

The friends, who were celebrating a birthday at the restaurant, were Mexican Americans. Lopes is of Portuguese descent.

"I can't believe (my friends) would get treated like that," said Lopes, 21. "It hurt my feelings. It's pretty bad. People assume things automatically."

Since Sept. 11, the city has been plagued by such incidents, directed against people who are Middle Eastern or just happen to look that way, others reported.

The airline passenger eviction reportedly occurred on Delta Flight 1469, scheduled to depart San Antonio International Airport at 7 p.m. Monday.

Khan, 32, a businessman, said he didn't press the issue because he didn't want police involved.

"I never saw in my dreams that this would be happening to me," said Khan, who was on his way to Karachi, Pakistan, for his brother's wedding.

After Khan took his seat, the captain announced the flight would be delayed 10 minutes, Khan said.

After the announcement, Khan said, the captain asked to talk to him in the jetway, a tunnel connecting the airport gate to the plane.

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Khan said the captain claimed the authority to ask Khan to leave the plane.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Roland Herwig says federal law gives the pilot wide-ranging authority.

"The pilot has all of the leeway on a flight once the (cabin) door is closed," Herwig said. "Of course, the pilot takes all the repercussions, too. But the pilot has control of the aircraft."

Delta Air Lines is investigating the incident, said Katie Connell, a company spokeswoman.

She declined further comment but said the company "does not discriminate in any way on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or ancestry."

Khan said he hadn't decided whether to sue the airline.

"He has no right to embarrass me or ask me like that," Khan said. "I feel I'm a person. I should be able to go. (The terrorist attack) doesn't have anything to do with me."

At the Islamic Center of San Antonio, Mayor Ed Garza and Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff assured members of the city's Muslim community they were doing everything they could to keep them safe.

Garza said a town hall meeting is being planned to help foster better relations among the city's many ethnic communities.

Father AntoniosGirgas, pastor of the 50-family St. Anthony the Great Coptic (Egyptian) Orthodox Church in Bulverde, said he couldn't blame Americans for being angry at terrorists who took advantage of U.S. society's openness, but he added: "It's coming back to us because we're Egyptian."

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Express-News: America in Agony

Let us know about workers called to duty

San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 09/20/2001 12:00 AM

Note to South Texas businesses

Do you have an employee who has been called to active military duty as a result of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington? If so, we'd like to know about that person.

Please provide us with your employee's name, his or her job title at your company and rank in the Reserves. We also can accept a photograph of the reservist, whether a print or in jpeg format.

We'll print the information on Page 2 of the Business section. Please send the information to Business Editors, San Antonio Express-News, Avenue E and Third Street, San Antonio, 78297, or e-mail hmontoya@express-news.net

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Attack on America

Pentagon sends warplanes to Persian Gulf

MySanAntonio.com

Web Posted : 09/19/2001 2:31 PM

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon on Wednesday ordered combat aircraft to begin moving to bases in the Persian Gulf area, the first concrete sign of preparations to retaliate for last week's terrorist attacks, a senior defense official said.

The combat aircraft will be preceded by teams of Air Force air controllers who will coordinate the refueling of the fighters and bombers as they deploy from the United States to the Gulf region, the official said.

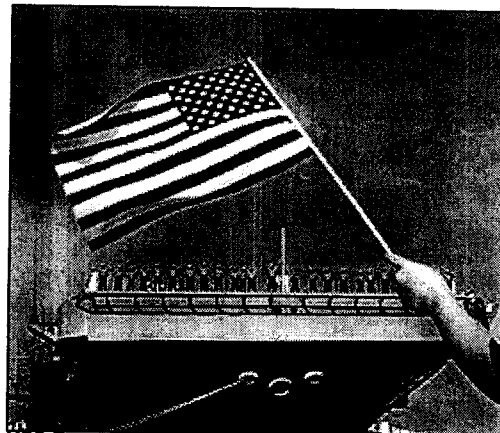
The deployment has been dubbed "Operation Infinite Justice," the official said.

The official said no aircraft have moved yet. First to move would be the air controller teams, which must establish ground communications at various places along the air route in order to coordinate refueling operations.

Likely to be included in the force of combat aircraft are F-16s, F-15s and possibly B-1 bombers, the official said.

The United States already has a sizeable and well-developed military presence in the Persian Gulf, with combat aircraft stationed in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and elsewhere. It appeared likely that many of the extra combat aircraft to be deployed in the next several days would go to Kuwait and Bahrain, the official said.

Earlier Wednesday, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said that America's war on terrorism must go beyond Osama bin Laden and hunt down associated networks of terrorists in dozens of countries.



USS Roosevelt leaves shore.
Photo by Mark Gormus/AP

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“We have a lot of evidence about a number of countries harboring terrorists that are working across the globe,” Rumsfeld told CNN.

09/19/2001

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KENS 5: Terrorist attack on our nation

Doctor set to testify to Fedral Grand Jury

By Brandy Ralston

KENS 5 Eyewitness News

Web Posted : 09/19/2001 6:07 PM

New information is coming out about a San Antonio doctor's possible role in last weeks attack.

Federal sources said the doctor was still being investigated about his possible connection to two terrorists who were killed in last week's attack.

U.T. Health Science Center Doctor Al-Badr Al-Hazmi, 34, has an alias. The doctor is also known as Khalid Al-Midhar, according to federal sources.

Both names were found on an F.B.I watch list. The doctor's alias name matched the name of a hijacker who was on American Airlines 77 that crashed into the Pentagon.

Dr. Al-Hazmi was set to go in front of a grand jury in White Plains, New York on Wednesday.

Al-Hazmi along with Ayub Ali Khan and Mohammed Azmath, who were picked up at a Ft. Worth Amtrak station, are considered to have direct information related to the attacks.

A fourth suspect Zacarias Moussaoui who was arrested in Minnesota will also be answering questions.

According to Dallas Morning News, four people who booked a United Airlines flight from San Antonio to San Diego on Sept. 22 are also on the list.

- Albadr Al-Hazmi
- Ebethal Al-Hazmi
- Enstar Al-Yusef
- Afan Al-Hazmi

Authorities are cautious about the date, fearing more attacks could be planned.

Authorities are also looking into the possibility that Dr. Al-Hazmi used cash to purchase tickets on another September 22 flight from San Antonio

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Express-News: America in Agony FBI wary on doctor's role

By Lisa Sandberg
San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 09/20/2001 12:00 AM

The role of a local radiologist who is being held as a material witness in connection with last week's terror attacks has become more complex, with FBI officials in San Antonio disputing some media reports.

The doctor, Al-Badr M.H. Al-Hazmi, was described to the San Antonio Express-News as being part of a support network that provided money and other resources to the hijackers, according to a local law enforcement source quoted in a Page 1A report published Wednesday.

The source said two men detained in Fort Worth last week had implicated Al-Hazmi.

"The way they got the doctor is the other two started talking," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Other news media have had similar reports, quoting other sources.

But Roderick L. Beverly, the FBI special agent in charge in San Antonio, "categorically denied" Wednesday that the two men had named Al-Hazmi during questioning.

Beverly urged the media to be cautious in reporting on terrorist activities in the United States, predicting some of the people currently detained will be cleared.

Al-Hazmi is one of four people being held in New York as a material witness in connection with last week's terror assaults.

Federal authorities have not released details about how or where Al-Hazmi was taken into custody or when he was moved to New York. Authorities refused to disclose any information on the whereabouts of Al-Hazmi's family.

Major news organizations around the world have included the doctor's San Antonio connection in their reports, bringing unwelcome attention to the Alamo City and heightening fears that no American city is immune from terror acts.

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On Tuesday, reports began to surface that the doctor and at least two other men with the same surname were booked on a Sept. 22 flight from San Antonio to San Diego by way of Denver.

After Attorney General John Ashcroft confirmed federal officials "are looking at the possibility that there may have been more than four planes targeted for hijacking," some news outlets speculated terrorists might have been targeting the Sept. 22 flight as part of a second wave of hijackings.

While confirming reports that Al-Hazmi was booked on the Sept. 22 flight, which has been canceled, San Antonio-based FBI spokesman Rene Salinas said there is no significance to the date and no evidence that the doctor planned to travel with any of the men who have been identified in other news accounts.

He also denied reports linking Al-Hazmi to two men detained last week in Fort Worth.

The San Antonio Express-News reported Wednesday that the two Indian nationals, Ayub Ali Khan, 51, and Mohammed Jaweed Azmath, 47, were en route to see Al-Hazmi when they were detained.

"I'm telling you, there's no connection," Salinas said.

The FBI declined to provide details of their investigation into the radiologist, except to issue denials about some details that have been reported.

They could not answer why the doctor was being detained in New York.

In other developments, the Dallas Morning News said Wednesday that investigators had linked Al-Hazmi's credit-card purchases to other people being investigated.

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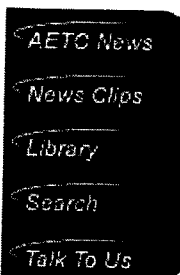


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AETCNS 01-210

Sept. 19, 2001

Wilford Hall, Keesler Medical Teams Return Home

By Tech. Sgt. Steve Elliott
Wilford Hall Medical Center
Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) -- They return as heroes, although their services were ultimately not needed -- a grim reminder of the staggering death toll from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.



Maj. Robert Hinkle from Wilford Hall Medical Center helps pack the expeditionary medical support tent Sunday at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., for the trip home to Lackland AFB, Texas. Most of the people in the large medical team contingents from Lackland and Keesler AFB, Miss., returned home Sunday and Monday. (U.S. Air Force photo by Scott Spitzer)

Doctors, nurses, medical technicians and others from Wilford Hall Medical Center, Texas, and Keesler Medical Center, Miss., returned home to their respective bases Sunday and Monday from McGuire AFB, N.J., where they were deployed since Sept. 12.

The 59th Medical Wing had sent more than 170 people, including some from Randolph AFB, Texas. More than 100 people from the 81st Medical Wing at Keesler AFB, Miss., deployed.

While most people sent came back home, a team of nine Wilford Hall psychologists and social workers flew from McGuire to Dover AFB, Md., over the weekend. They are part of a large contingency of mental health staff helping people deal with this traumatic event, and are interacting with military staff and providing assistance to those who are identifying remains from the terrorist attacks.

Keesler also had mental health and dental specialists remain behind. The dental professionals were joined by 10 others who deployed from Keesler this weekend as part of a dental forensics team that will help identify victims, said Keesler officials.

"It was kind of a disappointment that we didn't get a

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chance to go forward and help save lives, but what we did gain from this is the confidence to be able to go anywhere, anytime, to deploy a needed medical resource to the field," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Brian Masterson, who was in charge of the Wilford Hall contingent.

The Wilford Hall and Keesler contingents were part of the 21st Expeditionary Medical Group, which also included medical professionals from Altus AFB, Okla., Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, Langley AFB, Va.; Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and a team from Baltimore.

The 21st EMG had 539 people assigned and had set up a 250-bed field hospital in the McGuire gym that was operational within 24 hours. The teams were part of a national medical mobilization effort in support of the president's activation of the National Disaster Medical System to handle mass casualties in New York and Washington.

Originally, the military medical teams were positioning vital medical equipment at McGuire to ensure civilian hospitals that were receiving disaster victims were properly equipped. They were also there to offer relief to possibly overstrained medical facilities by offering short-term surgical and primary care.

"We've got the greatest folks on our team and they were ready to do whatever our nation asked of them," said Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Lee P. Rodgers, 59th Medical Wing commander.

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